

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**The Status of the Claims**

1. (Previously Presented) A system for organizing program guide data for use by an electronic program guide application, comprising:

a set top box, including;

a physical memory;

a mass storage device; and

a processor operatively connected to the physical memory and the mass storage device for implementing the electronic program guide application,

wherein the physical memory and the mass storage device are configured to store the program guide data,

wherein the processor is configured to control storage and manipulation of the program guide data between the physical memory and the mass storage device,

wherein the processor is configured to receive the program guide data received from a communications channel,

wherein the processor is configured to initiate at least one process to direct that the program guide data be temporally sorted and stored by comparison of a current time to a time associated with the program guide data, into program guide data that is most likely to be immediately accessed by the electronic program guide application, and program guide data that is most likely to be accessed in the more distant future, the program guide data that is most likely to be immediately accessed being stored in the physical memory, the program guide data that is most likely to be accessed in the more distant future being stored in the mass storage device, and

wherein the electronic program guide application is configured to cause the processor to suspend operation of the at least one process when the electronic program guide application accesses the program guide data stored in the physical memory.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to direct the at least one process to add the program guide data from the mass storage device to the physical memory so as to maintain a sufficient amount of the program guide data to be accessed for the electronic program guide application.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the processor is configured to direct a second process to remove the program guide data from the mass storage device and the physical memory so as to ensure that the program guide data used by the application can be accessed from the physical memory without delay.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the program guide data contained within the physical memory is configured to be accessed by the processor to run the electronic program guide application without having to access the mass storage device.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to control storage and manipulation of the program guide data so that the size of the physical memory is configured based on a temporal window in the physical memory that encompasses most common usage scenarios employing the program guide data.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the physical memory comprises a random access memory (RAM).

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the mass storage device comprises a hard disk.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the communications channel is configured as one of a satellite communications channel, a cable communications channel, a digital video broadcasting (DVB) communications channel and a terrestrial broadcast communications channel.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the program guide application is configured to display the program guide data on a display device coupled to the set top box in a tabular form including program times, program channels and program identifications.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the program identifications include information regarding at least one of actors, ratings, description of programs, cost for pay per view, a frequency of the communications channel, a video channel within the frequency, and an audio channel within the frequency.

16. (Previously Presented) A method for organizing data for use by an application, comprising:

providing a set top box, including a physical memory and a mass storage device which are operatively coupled to a processor therein for implementing the application;  
configuring the physical memory and the mass storage device to store the data;  
controlling storage and manipulation of the data between the physical memory and the mass storage device so that the data to be used by the application is available for immediate access from the physical memory;

initiating at least one process to control storage and manipulation of the data between the physical memory and the mass storage device so that the data is temporally sorted and stored by comparison of a current time to a time associated with the data, into data that is most likely to be immediately accessed for an application, and data that is most likely to be accessed in the more distant future, the data that is most likely to be immediately accessed being stored in the physical memory, the data that is most likely to be accessed in the more distant future being stored in the mass storage device; and

suspending operation of the at least one process when the application accesses the data stored in the physical memory.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein initiating at least one process further comprises initiating a first low-priority background process to add data from the mass storage device to the physical memory so as to maintain a sufficient amount of data to be accessed for the application.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein initiating at least one process further comprises initiating a second low-priority background process to remove data from the mass storage device and the physical memory so as to ensure that the data used by the application can be accessed from the physical memory without delay.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising configuring the physical memory is to be subject to accesses by the processor to the data contained therein to run the application without having to access the mass storage device.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the processor is configured to control storage and manipulation of the data so that the size of the physical memory is configured based on a temporal window in the physical memory that encompasses most common usage scenarios employing the data.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the data comprises program guide data for the application comprising a program guide for a plurality of program sources.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the physical memory comprises a random access memory (RAM).

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the mass storage device comprises a hard disk.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising a communications channel configured to transmit the data to the set top box.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the communications channel is configured as one of a satellite communications channel, a cable communications channel, a digital video broadcasting (DVB) communications channel and a terrestrial broadcast communications channel.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the program guide is configured to display the program guide data on a device coupled to the set top box in a tabular form including program times, program channels and program identifications.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the program identifications include information regarding at least one of actors, ratings, description of programs, cost for pay per view, a frequency of the communications channel, a video channel within the frequency, and an audio channel within the frequency.

31. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for organizing data for use by an application, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps recited in any one of claims 16-18, 21, 22, or 24-30.

32. (Previously Presented) A system for efficient storage of data for use by an application, comprising:

a set top box, including,

a physical memory,

a mass storage device, and

a processor configured to direct at least two low-priority background processes, one to add data from the mass storage device to the physical memory, the other to remove data from the mass storage device and the physical memory, so as to ensure that the data used by the application can be accessed from the physical memory without delay wherein the processor directs that the data be temporally sorted and stored by comparison of a current time to a time associated with the data, into data that is most likely to be immediately accessed for an application, and data that is most likely to be accessed in the more distant future, the data that is most likely to be immediately accessed being stored in the physical memory, the data that is most likely to be accessed in the more distant future being stored in the mass storage device; and

wherein the application is configured to cause the processor to suspend operation of the at least two low-priority processes when the application accesses the data stored in the physical memory.